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The Jerusalem Post January 31, 1978

## CIA <sup>earring</sup> 'by mistake' <sup>medium</sup> says Israel has atom bomb

By WOLF BLITZER  
Jerusalem Post Correspondent

WASHINGTON. — The U.S. Central Intelligence Agency has publicly released a 1974 secret study showing that Israel has a nuclear weapons programme, based in part on uranium obtained through clandestine means.

The CIA said Saturday that the release of the five-page secret analysis had been a "mistake." Spokesman Herbert Hetu said: "We don't know how it happened. We're in the midst of trying to figure that part out."

He said that only two paragraphs of the lengthy study should have been released, and the rest should have remained classified. He would make no further comment.

One story making the rounds was that a bureaucratic slip-up had resulted in the release of the entire package instead of just the two paragraphs.

The document, written shortly after the May 1974 Indian A-bomb explosion, was stamped "secret, no foreign disclosure."

"We believe that Israel already has produced nuclear weapons," it said. "Our judgment is based on Israeli acquisition of large quantities of uranium, partly by clandestine means; the ambiguous nature of Israeli efforts in the field of uranium enrichment; and Israel's large investment in a costly missile system

designed to accommodate nuclear warheads.

"We do not expect the Israelis to provide confirmation of widespread suspicions of their capability, either by nuclear testing or by threat of use, short of a grave threat to the nation's existence," the report said.

Alexander Pazner, spokesman of the Israeli embassy here, said: "There is no proof whatsoever. I can only repeat to you that Israel is not a nuclear power and that Israel will not be the first country in the Middle East to introduce nuclear arms into the region."

White House spokesman Jody Powell said Saturday that the U.S. accepts this Israeli statement as "authoritative" and would make no further comment.

Thursday's "mistake" by the CIA was not the first time that CIA officials have forgotten that CIA estimates of Israel's nuclear weapons capability are supposed to be secret. Early in 1976, the CIA's third-ranking official, Carl Duckett, told a meeting of aerospace executives that Israel had "10 to 20" atom bombs. When the remark was later leaked to the press, then-CIA director George Bush apologized for it, asserting that the statement should never have been made.

Bush, however, did not deny the accuracy of the statement. Shortly after the incident, Duckett retired from the CIA, citing health reasons.

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**EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT**

**Routing Slip**

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3	D/DCI/IC				
4	DD&T				
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7	DDO		✓		
8	D/DCI/NI				
9	GC				
10	LC	✓			
11	IG				
12	Compt.				
13	D/Pers				
14	D/S				
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